

Dog Park Safety

NEW!

Whether you are an experienced dog owner or a first-timer wanting to socialize your dog at the dog park, this program has something to teach you. We will cover dog park safety, reading dog body language, appropriate vs. inappropriate dog play and many other helpful hints.

Bring your spayed or neutered dog that is at least six months old, and a leash. Instructor: Leslie Hudson

F 10/18 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.

FREE • For ages 18 yrs. and up.

Ferguson Dog Park, 4300 N. Stone Mill Rd.

Fall Foliage Family Float

Paddle on Griffy Lake and see the fall foliage from a different perspective as you float along. Participants will be guided to different points of interest to explore the diverse flora and fauna. Boats, paddles, life vests, and binoculars are provided. Children under age 14 yrs. must be accompanied by a registered adult. Instructor: Kate Seader

Sa 10/19 • 1–2:30 p.m. • Register by 10/14 • 340007-A

\$8/in-city, \$9/non-city • For all ages.

**Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,
3300 N. Headley Rd.—Meet at boathouse.**

Autumn Owl Prowl

When the sun retreats, owls awaken to go in search of prey.

Throughout history and across many cultures, people have regarded owls with fascination and awe. Some say that owls are wise, others that they sparked legends of ghosts. Whatever the truth, a night near All Hallows Eve is a fine time to uncover the mysteries of these amazing nocturnal hunters. We'll learn

about a few of the species that coexist in our area and go on a hike in hopes of hearing or seeing one in action. Dress for the weather, and bring a flashlight. Instructor: Kate Seader

Su 10/27 • 8–9:30 p.m. • Register by 10/21 • 340008-A

\$3/in-city, \$4/non-city • For all ages.

Leonard Springs Nature Park, 4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.

Nature Sounds

The Nature Sounds series combines a live, acoustic performance by local musicians with an educational nature presentation about the sounds made and found in all of our outdoor spaces.

Friday, October 11 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Rose Hill Cemetery

FREE • Bring your own seating.

Program will be held at the old fountain location in the cemetery. Parking is available along Fourth and Elm Streets.

Nature topic: Decomposers

Musical guest: Cellist—Shuzo Hamada

From writhing maggots to head-banging termites, we will explore the dark world of decomposition. Under logs, underwater, and underground these bacterium, fungi and invertebrates break down dead plants and animals to keep the circle of life going 'round. As the leaves fall and we get ready for Halloween, it is a perfect time to explore the dirty work of these important creepy crawlers.

**For more information, contact Crystal Ritter
at 812-349-3725 or ritterc@bloomington.in.gov.**

**For weather-related updates, call the
Community Events Hotline at 812-349-3754.**

Leonard Springs Nature Day

If you have an interest in the outdoors and enjoy working with children, sign up for Leonard Springs Nature Day. Station facilitators and group leaders are needed.

To register, visit bloomington.in.gov/parksvol.



Volunteer to Maintain our Natural Spaces



Many volunteer projects are available for individuals and groups to help maintain and restore some of Bloomington's most scenic natural areas.

Visit bloomington.in.gov/parksvol.

Nature and the Outdoors Fall–Winter 2019



Price is per person. **Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied by a registered adult.** Activities may be both inside and outside, so please dress for the weather.



For more information, call Rebecca Jania at 812-349-3759 or email janiar@bloomington.in.gov. Register at bloomington.in.gov/parks or at the Parks and Recreation office, City Hall, 401 N. Morton St., Ste. 250.



Volunteer Opportunity



Heart-Healthy Program

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve

Boathouse, 3300 N. Headley Rd.

Scenic woodlands teeming with wild flora and fauna surround the 109-acre Griffy Lake at this 1,200-acre nature preserve. Swimming is prohibited. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has stocked the lake with bluegill, redear sunfish, largemouth bass, channel catfish, and crappie. Rowboat, kayak, canoe, and stand up paddleboard rentals are available seasonally at the Griffy Lake boathouse.

To protect wildlife and visitors, all dogs must remain leashed while in the preserve. Nearby Ferguson Dog Park accommodates dogs off-leash. For more information, call 812-349-3700. The City of Bloomington assumes no responsibility for accidents resulting from individuals venturing onto the ice.

Catch the wave of stand up paddleboards and glide across the water ... or experience the peace and freedom of paddling a kayak or canoe!



Griffy Lake Rental Fees

Canoe/Kayak/Rowboat/SUP Rental

(Two-hour limit on holidays/weekends)\$8/hour

10-Rental Pass\$70

Available for purchase at the boathouse during normal business hours.

Groups wishing to make boat rental reservations Monday through Friday may do so by calling Rebecca Jania at 812-349-3759. We do not reserve boats on weekends or holidays.

Privately owned boat launch fees: \$70/season, \$7/day

Boat motors are limited to electric trolling motors only.

Boathouse hours: **April and October:** Saturday and Sunday only, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

May–August: Daily, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

September: Daily, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

November–March: Closed

Boathouse phone: 812-349-3732

Griffy Lake Trails: Trail guides are available online and at the Griffy Lake boathouse. Please respect this fragile environment by remaining on the marked trails. Mountain biking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicles are strictly prohibited.

AMENITIES: Seasonal restrooms and picnic tables next to boathouse

PARKING: Available by the boathouse

TRAILS: 10+ miles total, wood chip and natural:

Wetlands Trail .3 miles, Nature Trail .4 miles (loop),

Griffy Creek Trail 1.5 miles, Hiking Trail 1.6 miles (loop)

ACCESSIBILITY: Accessible canoe and kayak launch

Eco Outpost: Looking for a fun way to interact with the great outdoors? Visit the Eco Outpost, a hands-on place to explore nature. Check out our display of natural objects like fossils, pine cones, and seashells, and learn how you can earn Eco Bucks that can be traded for any of the objects in the Outpost's collection. Borrow an Explorer Backpack and take a fun-filled trek through the woods or your own backyard. The Eco Outpost is open during boathouse hours.

bloomington.in.gov/griffylake

Roving Naturalist

Visit one of our naturalists at the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market on the first and third Saturdays of each month of the Market season. We cover a variety of topics and have information and activities for all ages. Our Roving Naturalists are also available for private natural resource programs.

For more information, contact Rebecca Jania at 812-349-3759 or janiar@bloomington.in.gov

Junior Rangers

Activities take place entirely outdoors. Campers should come prepared with sturdy, closed-toe shoes, water bottle, and rain gear when necessary.

Saturdays • For ages 6–13 yrs.
\$10/in-city, \$12/non-city
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve—
3300 N. Headley Rd.
Meet at the boathouse.

Hiking Etiquette & Wildlife Identification

Hike around Griffy Lake and learn about local wildlife and techniques used by wildlife biologists to track and study mammals, birds, and reptiles. Learn to use binoculars and field guides and create your own nature journal to record your experiences and observations

Sa 9/7 • 2–3:30 p.m. • Register by 9/3 • 340002-A

Maps & Compasses

Learn to use a map and compass to navigate through the forest. We'll use our new skills on a treasure hunt and learn some survival techniques and wild edibles along the way.

Sa 9/14 • 2–3:30 p.m. • Register by 9/9 • 340002-B

Aquatic Ecology & Canoes

Learn about aquatic habitats and fish biology while paddling on Griffy Lake. We will cover basic safety and paddling techniques before paddling out into the open water for a scavenger hunt. **A parent permission slip will be required for this session.**

Sa 9/21 • 2–3:30 p.m. • Register by 9/16 • 340002-C

Night Paddle

Experience an evening of peace and serenity on Griffy Lake during the full moon. Navigate the lake, take deep breaths of fresh air, and watch the night sky light up the water. Each participant must register. Watercraft, paddles and life jackets are provided. Children age 14 yrs. and younger must be accompanied by a registered adult. Bring a flashlight to help you navigate back to your vehicle once you return to dry land.

Th 8/15 • 8:30–10 p.m. • Register by 8/14 • 240002-D

Sa 9/14 • 7:30–9 p.m. • Register by 9/12 • 240002-E

Su 10/13 • 7–8:30 p.m. • Register by 10/10 • 240002-F

\$8/in-city, \$9/non-city • For all ages.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd.

Beesponsible

Bees play a vital role in our everyday lives that many of us may not realize. In fact, one-third of the food we eat depends on bees, specifically honey bees. They pollinate plants such as apples, almonds, pumpkins, and blueberries. Bee populations may be in decline, but we can help! Learn fun facts about honey bees and pollinators and how to make a honey bee feel at home in your backyard during this program celebrating National

Honey Bee Day! Instructor: Devin Brown

Th 9/12 • 6–7 p.m.

FREE • For all ages.

RCA Community Park, 1400 W. RCA Park Dr.

Woodland Plant ID Hike

Our city's forests are amazingly diverse and accessible. An experienced naturalist will guide you on a hike through a deciduous forest and teach you how to get to know your forests more intimately. Learn how to identify trees and shrubs by bark, bud, flower, and leaf. Also, you will be taught to use a dichotomous key so you don't get stumped on the hardest trees to identify. Additionally, participants will learn about invasive plant species and the basics of their management. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle for this 1.5-mile hike. Instructor: Devin Brown

Su 9/15 • 1–3 p.m. • Register by 9/9 • 340001-A

\$4/in-city, \$5/non-city • For all ages.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,
3300 N. Headley Rd.—Meet at boathouse.

World Rivers Day Cleanup



World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways.

It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and encourages the improved stewardship of rivers around the world.

Celebrate by helping clean up one of our local waterways, Cascades Creek. Instructor: Devin Brown

Su 9/22 • 8:30–9:30 a.m.

FREE • For ages 16 yrs. and up.

Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37—

Meet at Sycamore Shelter.

Hiking and Walking with Your Dog

Whether you are an experienced dog owner who is new to hiking, or an experience hiker who is also a dog owner, this program has great information for you.

We will cover skills to consider teaching your dog, recommend equipment for walks, provide a list of local hiking spots, and teach general trail etiquette. Our hiking tips will help you and your pooch have a great time on the trail.

M 9/23 • 6–7 p.m. • Register by 9/19 • 340003-A

\$3/in-city, \$4/non-city • For ages 18 yrs. and up.

Rev. Ernest D. Butler Park, 812 W. Ninth St.

Homeschool Naturalist Series

This unique educational series provides hands-on science observation activities for homeschool students in grades 3–10 within Bloomington's abundant natural areas.

Students will have the opportunity to learn water quality monitoring techniques, identify native and exotic plant species, discover the wonders of karst geology, and play in streams and forests. Students an enroll in the entire series or sign up for individual courses. Prepare to get wet and dirty-and dress for the weather! Bring a snack and a water bottle. Parents do not need to attend with their children.

Mondays • For ages 8–16 yrs.

\$4/in-city, \$5/non-city

Instructor: Devin Brown

Plants, Trees, and Wild Edibles

Learn to identify trees, shrubs, and understory plants by sight and sometimes even smell. We will highlight some medicinal and edible uses as well.

M 9/23 • 1–4 p.m. • Register by 9/16 • 340004-A

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd.

Aquatic Ecosystems and Monitoring

Learn about riparian ecosystems, collect and observe macroinvertebrates, and learn basic water quality monitoring techniques.

M 10/21 • 1–4 p.m. • Register by 10/14 • 340004-B

Lower Cascades Park,

2851 N. Old State Rd. 37—Waterfall Shelter

Watersheds and Karst Geology

Learn about the unique hydrological and geomorphological attributes of karst geology and the connective relationships created through our local watersheds.

M 11/18 • 1–4 p.m. • Register by 11/11 • 340004-C

Leonard Springs Nature Park, 4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.

Foraging for Food

Foraging for your food can be a fun and frugal way to eat! Edible plants found in the forest can enhance your usual dishes, like mushrooms for your pasta or natural remedies for common ailments. We will discuss safe practices and useful identification techniques that will allow you to become more comfortable

foraging on your own. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a water bottle. Instructor: Devin Brown

Sa 9/28 • 1–2:30 p.m. • Register by 9/23 • 340005-A

\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.

RCA Community Park,

1400 W. RCA Park Dr.—Meet at small shelter.

Habitats are Hip

With increasing pressure from development and human activity, wildlife habitat is on the decline. You can help by creating a wildlife sanctuary in your own backyard. Celebrate World Habitat Day and learn ways to make your backyard an inviting space for wildlife of all kinds. Instructor: Kate Seader

M 10/7 • 6–7 p.m. • Register by 10/3 • 340006-A

\$3/in-city, \$4/non-city • For all ages.

RCA Community Park, 1400 W. RCA Park Dr.